

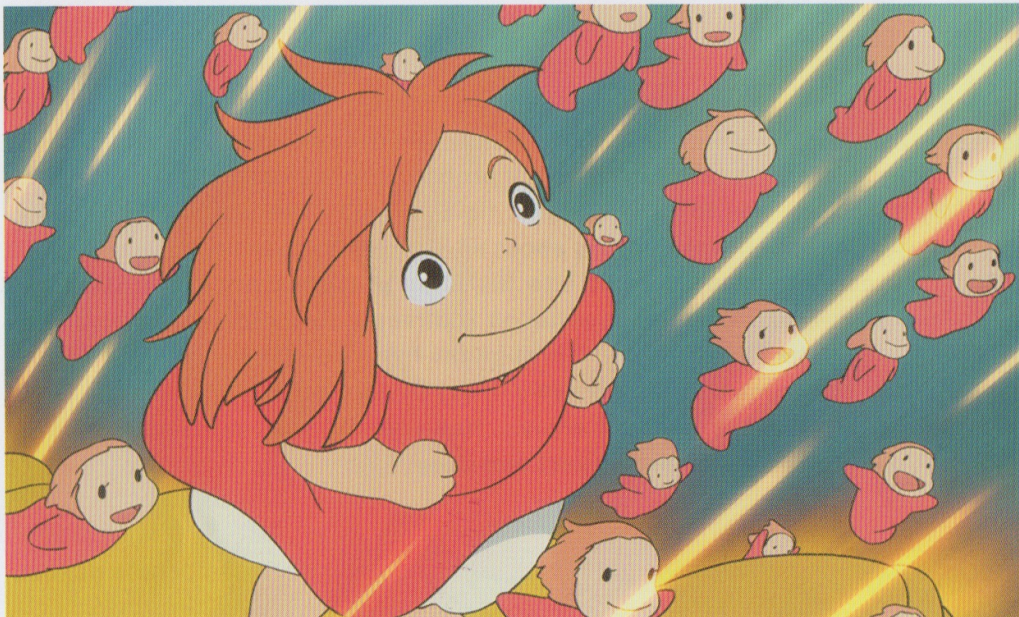
MOTHER AND CHILD

Last fall Hayao Miyazaki, who would be turning sixty-seven in the coming year, said to me, "I've come to an age where I can count with my fingers my remaining years.... And then, I'll probably be reunited with my mother. What should I say to her when that time comes?" This was what *Miya-san* (Hayao Miyazaki) was thinking about all along while making *Ponyo*.

A reunion scene was put into his film. This does not mean that the "reunion" which Miya-san mentioned is directly depicted or that Miya-san appears in the film as himself. Through the five-year-old Sosuke, he meets a certain old woman. What the two will say to each other, I will not say. I ask that you watch the film and enjoy.... However old you may become, for a child, a mother's existence is vast and deep.

May 7, 2008

Producer Toshio Suzuki



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

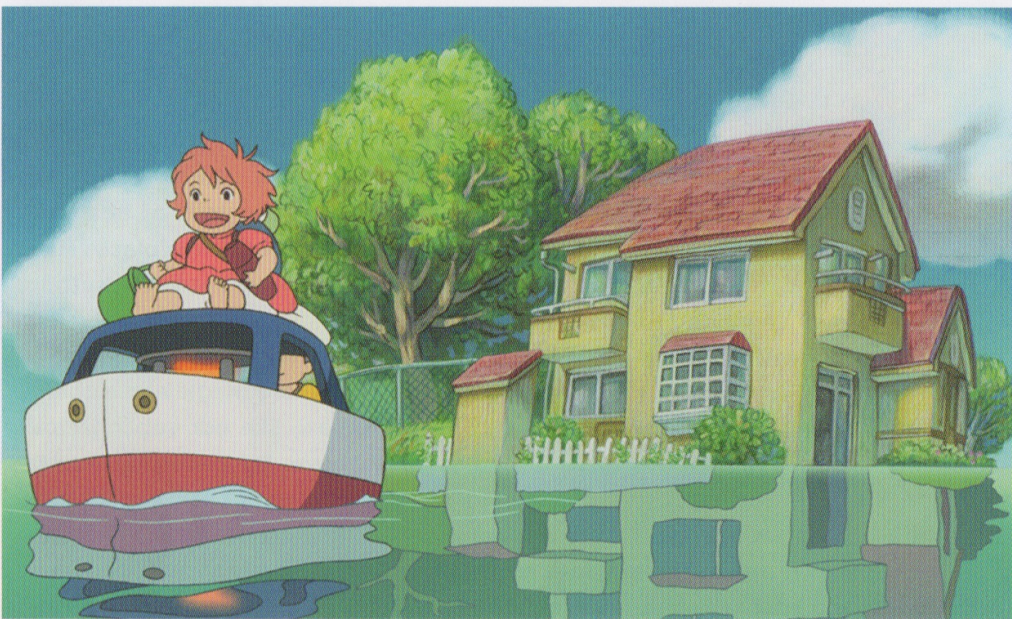
A LITTLE SEASIDE TOWN

This is the story of Ponyo, a little fish from the sea, who struggles to realize her dream of living with a boy named Sosuke. It also tells of how five-year-old Sosuke manages to keep a most solemn promise. *Ponyo* places Hans Christian Andersen's *The Little Mermaid* in a contemporary Japanese setting. It is a tale of childhood love and adventure.

A little seaside town and a house at the top of a cliff. A small cast of characters. The ocean as a living presence. A world where magic and alchemy are accepted as part of the ordinary. The sea below, like our subconscious mind, intersects with the wave-tossed surface above. By distorting normal space and contorting normal shapes, the sea is animated not as a backdrop to the story, but as one of its principal characters.

A little boy and a little girl, love and responsibility, the ocean and life—these things, and that which is most elemental to them, are depicted in the most basic way in *Ponyo*. This is my response to the afflictions and uncertainty of our times.

June 5, 2006
Hayao Miyazaki



LYRICS TO "MOTHER SEA"

The sea lilies sway
In a world of blue
To brothers and sisters uncountable
We spoke in the bubbly, watery language of the sea

Do you remember when
So very, very long ago
We dwelt there together
Deep in the blue, blue sea?

The jellyfish, the sea urchins, the fish and the crabs
Were our family

LYRICS Wakako Kaku and Hayao Miyazaki
MUSIC COMPOSITION AND ARRANGEMENT Joe Hisaishi
PERFORMANCE Masako Hayashi
TRANSLATION Rieko Izutsu-Vajirasarn
BASED ON THE POEM "SAKANA" BY Wakako Kaku

LYRICS TO "PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA"

Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo tiny little fish
She's a little fish from the deep blue sea
Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo she's a little girl
She's a little girl with a round tummy

Pitter-patter, hop-hop and jump
Look, I have legs! I'm gonna run!
Squishy-squeeze, wave them around
Look, I have hands! Let's hold them now!

When I'm skipping with her, my heart does this dance
Munch n'munch, kiss-hug! Munch n'munch, kiss-hug!
O he's my favorite little boy, rosy-rosy red-red

Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo tiny little fish
She's a little fish from the deep blue sea
Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo she's a little girl
She's a little girl with a round tummy

Sniff-sniff-sniff, this smells so good
I'm so hungry, I'm gonna eat!
Take a look around, very carefully
I'm sure he's there looking too

When we laugh together, my cheeks feel so hot
Happy happy kiss-hug! Happy happy kiss-hug!
O he's my favorite little boy, rosy-rosy red-red

Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo tiny little fish
Came to the house on the cliff by the sea
Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo she's a little girl
She's one happy girl with a round tummy

*In Miyazaki's own words, "The image of this song is
a father and daughter singing together during bath time."*

LYRICS Katsuya Kondo
ADDITIONAL LYRICS Hayao Miyazaki
MUSIC COMPOSITION AND ARRANGEMENT Joe Hisaishi
PERFORMANCE Fujioka Fujimaki & Nozomi Ohashi

